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570CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY Poland and Polish-occupied Silesia REPORT NO.TOPIC Polish Troops in Katowice and Liegnitz

EVALUATION

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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Information up to 16 August 1949 was obtained on Polish troops in Katowice (O 51/Y 57) and Liegnitz (O 52/B 82):

1. Katowice

a. High headquarters on French Street opposite the cemetery under the command of a Polish general.

b. 6th KBW Regt.

(1) Assignment.

It was not known whether the regiment was subordinate to the high headquarters on French Street.

(2) Quarters.

A barracks on the corner of the Barracks Street and the Schmer-schewsky Street (phonetic spelling). The regimental headquarters was in a detached headquarters building next door to the barracks. Elements of the regiment were quartered in Zhorzow (O 51/Y 57).

(3) Names of officers.

Capt Gradowsky, C/S, was presumably transferred to a KBW headquarters in Warsaw in August 1949.

Capt Kessler, Chief of the Political Section.

1st Lt Kraficz, Signal Communication Officer in charge of a radio station.

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No Change in Class. ☒☐ Declassified

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1st Lt Buschanowsky, Political Officer.

The regimental commander was a Polish major.

(4) Personnel and organization.

Personnel: 800 to 1,000 troops.

The following units were known to the PW:

A horse-drawn company under 1st Lt Hussarowski (for details see para 1, c);

A mortar company;

A machine gun company equipped with heavy water-cooled machine guns;

A special unit with the designation "Informacja". The unit was a sort of military police.

(5) Armament.

The units were almost exclusively equipped with machine guns. The regiment was equipped with light armored open motor vehicles with bullet-proof shields and 20-mm guns.

(6) uniforms.

(a) Erz Collar patches: triangular, with a yellow upper half and a blue under half.

Officers: About 10-cm long blue velvet collar patches (red with physicians). The collar patches had a one-cm wide zigzagged silver facing and a pink zigzag strip.

Officers wore cross belts. Their epaulets were made of the same cloth as the uniforms and displayed embroidered or metal stars. Service caps were round and smooth (prior to 1949: cornered).

(7) Soviet influences.

Capt Bradowsky was to be relieved as CofS by a Soviet lieutenant colonel. 1st Lt Hussarowski was believed to be a Soviet officer. Soviet training methods were practiced since 1949.

c. Military border guard forces (MOP).

Personnel for the MOP underwent training in Capt Hussarowski's company. Such trainees were given green cap cords when they were detached to the MOP.

d. Army troops.

No information on Polish army troops in Katowice available. 1st Lt Schulz was known to be military post commander.

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2. Liegnitz (according to information supplied by a PW who worked in Liegnitz until June 1949).

A large tent camp for Polish troops was under construction on the western outskirts of the town. The tents were to be replaced by cantonment buildings, Polish soldiers said. The camp was occupied by about 1,000 troops up to June 1949.

The following equipment was observed:

Tanks

Motorized artillery (short-barreled guns estimated at more than 100 mm caliber)

Mortars.

Polish officer schools also were in Liegnitz.

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☐ comment:

The 8th K.B. Brig was confirmed in Katowice by concurrent statements of several PWs and reports from two sources.

A central training school and an officer candidate school were reported in Liegnitz in November 1948.

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